20: Gifford E-5 (1920-1921) 1924 OU9 Tonga OU9

wanderlust as did the ancient double-boat. The old sea chants of the Tongan seafarers are now largely replaced by Christian hymns, but the essential idea of song in connection with sea travel still remains. 484 178

Although the ancient sailing vessels of the Tongans have all yielded before the European-type vessels, the small dugout canoe with outrigger still remains in considerable force. 501 177 178

The composition of poetry and its chanting or singing by a chorus of singers is still a very popular pastime. The composers turn out their product on quite short notice. On one occasion the writer attended a picnic after the examination of a great stone vault tomb. The bard in charge of the singers had composed and taught them a song that fitted the occasion and referred to the visit to the tomb on the top of a neighbouring island. 538 533

To a slight extent woman is appearing as the theme in modern Tongan poems, thus in small measure usurping the place held by the scenery. This seems to be the result of English example. The brass band is in some degree crowding out the native bard. Friday night band concerts by native musicians are a regular thing in Nukualofa, the capital of Tonga. 177 538 177 533 [545]

The Tongan government doctors, all Caucasians, have adopted a practice which conforms with the traditional ideas of the natives. This practice is supercision, an operation related to circumcision. When performed by a European doctor, instead of a native, the operation usually takes place at one of the government hospitals to which the patient returns periodically for treatment. The operation in Hebrew style (fakahebelu) is at times requested by the boys of to-day. 304 177 [743]

Telephones have recently been installed in Nukualofa, and, though primarily for the use of European residents, will doubtless in time become adjuncts of the homes of upper class Tongans. For some years past the Tongans in the capital have been reading daily wireless dispatches type-written in Tongan and posted at the post office. 206 177

Motion pictures have entered Tonga and become permanently established in Nukualofa, where there are two theatres. The outward attitude of the Tongan audience seems about the same as that of an audience in a small 546 [177] [571]

87: Wood M,Y-4,5 (no date) 1932 0U9 Tonga 0U9

206 Wireless stations have been established at Nuku'alofa, Lifuka (Ha'abai), Vava'u, Niua Fo'ou and Niua Tobutabu; only the first station has communication with other countries. There is also a telephone service at Nuku'alofa.

494 The advent of motor traffic has made the improvement of roads necessary, and these have been built with the only available stone, coral 491 limestone.

VITAL STATISTICS, EDUCATION AND RELIGION.

161 The estimated population, full-blooded Tongans only, on 31st December, 1931, was 29,157. Tonga is one of the comparatively few Pacific Island groups where the population is steadily increasing. There is no justification for imagining that the population of Tonga has ever reached 30,000, but rather the indications are that, even in the most prosperous times before the coming of Europeans, it did not exceed 25,000. The present figures may therefore be taken as the highest level which the Tongan population has reached, and there is no fear that the country cannot support a population continuing to increase at the present rate for several decades.

162 Reference is sometimes made to Cook's statement that 10,000 175 people were present at the festival held in his honour at Togatabu, and 161 3,000 at Lifuka. Especially bearing in mind the visitors who would come from other islands for such a unique event, these figures certainly do not 361 justify a belief in a greater population than the present. The land seemed then to be better occupied as the people were spread out over their gar- 175 dens, there being no villages until the Civil War period.

161 Wilkes received an estimate from the missionaries in 1840, and this may be compared with the Government statistics in this century, [165] noting the effects of the pneumonic influenza epidemic in 1918–19 and the way in which the loss of 1,000 lives then has since been more than redeemed (these figures are for full-blooded Tongans only):

1840	18,500 (excluding the two Niuas)
1900	20,019
1911	21,712
1917	24,245
1918	23,842
1919	22,689
1920	23,128
1924	25,109
1927	26,597
1929	27,660
1930	28,431
1931	29,157

161 The Police Census of 27th April, 1931, gives a total of 28,839, 162 comprising 27,700 Tongans (this involving a discrepancy with the estimate of the Registrar of Births and Deaths), 482 Europeans, 265 half-castes, 336 other Pacific Islanders, 56 foreigners, mostly Asiatics.

563 Racial inter-marriage is not so common at the present time; nevertheless, a considerable proportion of those officially classed as "full-